

October 9, 2020

Appellate Court  
Attn: L. Jeanne Dullea  
231 Capital Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

**Sent via: Efile on Judicial Website and USPS**

October 13, 2020

Oral argument is rescheduled to October 29, 2020  
at 10:30 a.m.  
/s/ L. Jeanne Dullea, ACA

Re: Oral Argument of October 7, 2020 at 4:00pm

Docket No.: AC 42774

Matter: A&R ENTERPRISES, LLC v. SENTINEL INSURANCE COMPANY, Ltd.

Good Morning,

I write this letter to convey my deepest apologies for missing the oral argument as scheduled on this matter for October 7, 2020 at 4:00pm. I know that I have inconvenienced the Court, the Honorable Justices, and Counsel and I am incredibly sorry and feel significant shame. Missing oral argument, although not at all deliberate, was completely my fault. I would appreciate so very much the opportunity to explain the reasons behind this absence to the Court so as to demonstrate, in some small part, the lack of intent to disrespect the Court, it's time, and my fellow counsel, Attorney Busher.

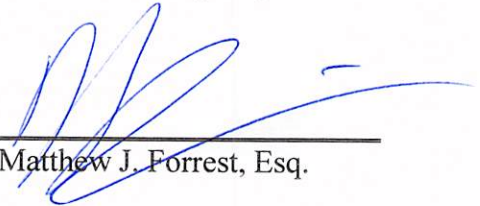
On Friday evening, October 2, 2020 I was given the sad news that my best friend's father unexpectedly died. The deceased son – my best friend - was a clerk at the Connecticut Supreme Court. Support was needed. I placed the funeral information on the firm calendar on October 5<sup>th</sup> and followed up with my paralegal to please inform the Court and attorney Busher of the pending conflict for rescheduling. The services were October 7, 2020, the firm calendar was updated to block off most of the day starting at 10:30.

On the morning of October 7, 2020, I attended a remote pretrial (my last before I had to attend the funeral services) and requested Superior Court Judge Moore that we have an abbreviated pretrial as I needed to leave promptly at 10:30. Judge Moore, of course, worked with counsel to ensure an expedited pretrial and ensured I was able to leave with sufficient time to make the required trip to Avon. I thank Judge Moore for his understanding and thoughtfulness.

It goes without saying that in the timeframe between October 5<sup>th</sup> and the scheduled oral argument for October 7, my firm, **of which I take the ultimate responsibility**, failed to timely inform the Court and counsel of the scheduling issues. It was the responsibility of my office to take the necessary steps to resolve my conflicts for October 7, 2020. Unfortunately, this was not done, and notification to this Court was not provided. My office should have called the Court and asked for the oral argument to be marked over and an explanation should have been given to the Court prior to the time of the oral argument. I could have taken further steps to ensure notification was sufficient, but at the time, I didn't. Again, lack of attendance at oral argument was not done with intent and you have my deepest apologies. It is simply not acceptable.

The responsibility for the cause of missing oral argument is completely mine. Although error was made, I write with the hope that the Court will see the events as they were and perhaps show mercy to allow time to argue on behalf of the Plaintiff – Appellant. Although I am their representative, I would hope that my failing would not affect or infringe on the rights or perception of my client – who are good people running a small shop in Torrington.

My Sincerest Apologies ,



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Matthew J. Forrest, Esq.